MEMORANDUM

March 30, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

FROM: Burt W. Griffin

RE: Recommendations for Further Action in Connection with Determining How Ruby Got Into The Basement, and Evaluating Officer Dean

In making the following recommendation I am taking into principal consideration three factors:

(1) that we do not as yet have the most complete set of evidence and the most thorough investigation that we could have to permit analysis and effectiveness in cross-examination;

(2) that the top officers in the police department (Chief Curry and Chief Batchelor) are honestly and sincerely interested in determining whether or not Dean is telling the truth and how Ruby got into the basement; and

(3) that the information we already have to discredit Dean is sufficiently strong to make the police department cooperate with us out of fear that we will turn this information over to the defense.

My general line of approach in making these recommendations is that we should aim toward obtaining the cooperation of the Police Department in taking whatever steps we believe necessary to secure the truth and insure that Jack Ruby is able to obtain a fair trial. As a last resort we should make our evidence available to the defense, but we should do this if the Police Department does not come forward with conclusive proof that Dean and his associates have been truthful.

1. As a first step I would complete the gathering of information, independently of the Police Department, and examine all our files as outlined in my earlier memorandum.

2. I would take the deposition of Officer Fritz and specifically determine from him when it was that he was first investigated.

3. I would ask for all police reports in connection with the Ruby investigation including entry into the basement which have not been turned over to us and I would ask for handwritten original copies as well as typed copies.

4. Upon an examination of all this evidence, I would confer with Chief Batchelor and Chief Curry with the thought of determining from them how Pierce believed that Jack Ruby was told of our statements to the press, that Dean knew about that policy, how they first heard about the information which Dean says Ruby gave him, and when Lt. Pierce was first told by Dean about that statement.

5. I would try to enlist the full cooperation of Chief Curry and Batchelor and I would request that they retain our conference even to the point of not disclosing to the District Attorney Henry that that investigation is taking place. (I make this suggestion about confidentiality to Henry Wade because Judge Brown has indicated to me that he did not believe that he was entirely reliable.) However, I think that the manner in which this should be handled should be specifically taken up with Henry Wade and if he believes that this should be made a matter of record in all of the information and discussions that take place with Batchelor and Curry, then I think we should follow his advice.)

6. After the above steps have been taken, we should call as witnesses before the Commission the following persons: Reserve Officer Gray, FBI employee James Turner, Sgt. Patrick T. Dean, Detective Bert Lowery, Officer J. L. "Blackie" Hawkins, Det. Louis M. Miller, Det. Guinyard, Det. Archer, Det. Clark, Det. R. D. Rutledge, and Detective Gerald Hill.

GHMcK/jw/3-24-64

cc: Griffin Smith file
Mr. Killam